

# THE VINE

Aspen Hill Christian Church

13501 Georgia Avenue, Aspen Hill, Maryland 20906

(301)871-7222

Pastor: Dr. D. Robert Chance

OCTOBER 2023

## *BY CHANCE* Change



Fall is the season of change. The leaves change from their summer green to red, brown, yellow, purple, and every shade in between. The leaves have already begun dropping from the trees as the trees are getting ready for fall and then winter. It's an awesome transformation, especially in Maryland as we have so many varieties of hardwoods and the weather can vary so wildly from one season to another. My yard has been filling with dried leaves of various shades of brown and yellow. We have a lot of tulip poplars (which aren't technically "poplars" at all. With the dry weather of July and August, the leaves are falling early.

I think and feel differently about change from when I was young. When I was young and just beginning my ministry I was all about "change." Change seemed like a great thing to me. I had a hard time understanding how "old people" were so resistant to change. I understood in some ways how "all change" wasn't technically a good thing but I was really frustrated with how "any change" seemed to be such a challenge for the older people who generally filled our churches and were in the seats of power and decision making.

Ah, the march of time. Now I'm in the "old people" camp. Now, I understand how "change for the sake of change" isn't necessarily a good thing and in fact can be counterproductive and meritless. Now I have to work harder at embracing change. Now I have to be convinced that change is a good thing. I learned a long time ago when it came to cars, all things mechanical and technological, "if it isn't broken don't mess with it." These days places like Microsoft, YouTube, Zoom, and all places of technology drive me beyond crazy with changing how their programs work and moving things around. Often these days just about the time I learn where things are in programs like Word, Excel, Outlook, and other programs I use and depend on every day, some whippersnapper wants to shake things up and I have to spend inordinate and unacceptable amounts of time relearning programs I already knew. My genealogy program that I loved and was simple and easy to use disappeared completely and the new one I had to buy and use went from version 7 (it took me a long time to figure it out) to version 8 which is universally acknowledged as a mistake, to now version 9 which I just don't want to learn. Change is not always good.

Whether it's good or not, easy to embrace or not, life requires that just like trees in the woods, we have no choice but to prepare for changing seasons, changing circumstances, and changing conditions. The last several years have seen massive and disruptive seasons of change for us in every aspect of life. I do my best to resist change for the sake of change, but to be open to the necessity of change. Embracing whatever it takes to be open to change is required. Change is a part of life. Come to think of it, my hairline is a perfect metaphor for changing seasons. I've dropped most of my "leaves" and the hairline is in a perpetual state of winter. It is what it is! Such is life. Change can be good, or it can be bad, but it's going to be. Get used to it!

*NEWS AMONG OUR  
CHURCH FAMILY  
PRAYER LIST*

*Please let us know if you know of someone who is sick or is a shut-in. Thank you.*

*Ed Wachtman – Please keep Ed in your prayers.*

*Edwina Meheaux – Please keep in your prayers. Give her a call on the phone.*

*Patty Collins- Please keep Patty in your prayers. She loves telephone calls too.*

*Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers*

*Susan Montgomery – Keep in your prayers*

*The people of Ukraine- Keep in your prayers*

*All those who suffer from grief and loss and who struggle with illness in any form.*

*There are always others—keep all in your prayers, named or unnamed. Let us know if we've missed someone.*

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 Dahlia Williams
- 7 Cecelia Samuels
- 9 Eric & Monica Hanson
- 12 Lee Alderman
- 15 Eric Hanson
- 15 Janis Hanson
- 17 Ed Wachtman
- 19 Jack & Janis Hanson
- 24 Drew Buckingham

**PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW IF YOUR BIRTHDATE AND/OR ANNIVERSARY DATE IS WRONG OR MISSING, SO WE MAY CORRECT IT.**

***CHURCH DIRECTORY***

**THE 2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS. ONE COPY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.**

# NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES



## FELLOWSHIP...Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance

Fall is here! It's time to "Fall Back into Good Habits". Among the good habits we can call back into is the habit of helping out with our Fellowship periods right after church. There is a sign-up sheet right next to the kitchen door. Will you pick some dates you can help with and sign up to be responsible for providing the Fellowship Period after worship? You can make it as simple as coffee, juice, and cookies or as over the moon as you like! It's an important time to get to know one another better, visit together and experience the true meaning of Fellowship. Step right up and Fall Back into Helping with our Fellowship life.



## PROPERTY...John Small

Each year about this time we put together "Snow Teams" to clear the snow from our sidewalks during the winter months. Montgomery County treats us like a business which means we have 24 hours from the time the snow (2" and above) stops falling to clear it from the sidewalks in front of the church or pay a large fine. Of course, we need our own sidewalk inside the driveway shoveled too.

Due to people moving out of the area, we are down to a very small number of volunteers. In the past we had two people per team with each team serving for a two-week period between the end of November and March. Last winter we only had one person per team, which isn't enough. We need more than one. We have a good big snow blower, salt on hand and hopefully a snowplow on our mower ready for use. We do pay for the lot to be cleared, but to add the cost of a person(s) to clear the sidewalks is prohibitive.

If you can volunteer to join our snow teams for the coming winter please let Dr. Chance or me know as soon as possible, but no later than two weeks from now. This way we can put our teams together and provide a schedule for the Snow Team members.

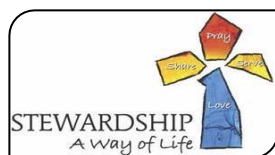
If you are interested in helping with our property ministry to keep our church facilities in good condition, please contact me ([johnsmallmb66@gmail.com](mailto:johnsmallmb66@gmail.com)).



## OUTREACH...Connie Spoon

The Backpack Drive was a tremendous success with 46 backpacks full of school supplies for the children of Georgian Forest Elementary School! What a fantastic show of generosity from our wonderful congregation!

The food pantry is available for anyone in need. Please contact the church office for assistance.



## STEWARDSHIP...

Please Don't forget to send your offering in or place it directly in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You can also mail it to the church or drop it in the mail slot outside the main doors. We will soon be launching our Annual Every Member Commitment program. Be on the lookout for a thoughtful and creative and important EMC effort as we seek your pledges for our 2024 ministries. The cost of living is somewhere around 2.5 % so any increase in your giving of less than that is actually a cut in your giving. Faithful Living Equals Faithful Giving!

***Your offering makes the Lord's ministry possible! Thank you for all you do!***



## Highlights from the Board Meeting, September 13 , 2023



- The meeting was opened with prayer and devotional.
- Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports were received.
- The Pastor's Report was received.
- Ministry Reports were shared by the Ministry Chairs and good discussion was held in response to the ministries taking place in the life of the church.
- Upcoming events were reviewed and final details discussed.
- The Board approved the Annual Fruit Sale. Be prepared to step up and help. See Mary Chance with your offers of help and ways you can help.



## FACTS & FIGURES: WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER

The good news is attendance is increasing and heading in the right direction. The bad news is there is a long way to go to reach pre-pandemic numbers. If you haven't returned yet, now is the time and please invite and bring friends and family to join you.

(INCLUDES BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

September Average Total: 46 (28 person /18 online)  
Year to Date Average: Total: 57 (34 in person /23 online)

*"I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

11:00 AM Sunday

The Worship service will also continue to be offered live and online. Keep checking [www.aspenhillcc.org](http://www.aspenhillcc.org), click on the You Tube link and choose the date you want.

**Worship in person at 11:00 every Sunday & Live on our YouTube Channel**



We are doing our best to get people back in person, but we do understand that some people cannot make it to church on certain Sundays. To view online click [www.aspenhillcc.org](http://www.aspenhillcc.org), then click on the Watch Us Live on YouTube icon. Once at our YouTube Page be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and subscribe to our channel. You can also make any nice comments you want to, that helps us be more visible. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.

Please submit your articles, updates, and information we might like to include in future newsletters to Rosemary for possible inclusion in the future.

The deadline for the November newsletter is October 22.

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**NEW Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
**Friday 9:00 AM-2:00 pm**



**Say Hello to Rose Nuñez, Our New Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper.**

Rose will be starting in the office on October 2 and working with Cindy for a couple of weeks until mid-October. Rose has shared a little bit about herself so that we can all get to know her:

*Born and bred amidst the vibrant energy of New York, I am Rosemary Nuñez, a now proud resident of Montgomery County, who also happens to be the loving mother of four incredible girls.*

*Professionally, I have had the privilege of working in various roles. These experiences have not only honed my expertise but also allowed me to collaborate with diverse individuals, fostering my appreciation for the power of teamwork and the exchange of ideas.*

*Beyond my professional endeavors, I am an advocate for helping the disadvantaged, believing that small acts of kindness and meaningful contributions can create ripples of positive change in our world.*

*In my leisure time, you can often find me at the local plant stores and parks, where I find solace and inspiration. Whether it's hiking, exploring new towns with my family, or baking, these pursuits provide a balance to my life and fuel my creativity where I can now share with the Aspen Hill Christian Church family!*

**Thank you from Cindy Dobbs**



I have enjoyed my brief tenure at Aspen Hill Christian Church and getting to know so many wonderful members of the congregation. I will be working at home, providing childcare for my new granddaughter as my daughter goes back to work, along with doing legal transcript work, something I really enjoy doing. So, I'm not retiring at all! I know I'm leaving the office in good hands. Please be patient with Rose as she gets to know the ropes. There's a lot to learn in this position! And thanks to all of you for your support over the past year. Blessings to all of you.



*Please let the office know how you would like your newsletter delivered! USPS, Email or Both.*  
[office@aspenhillcc.org](mailto:office@aspenhillcc.org) or call 301-871-7222



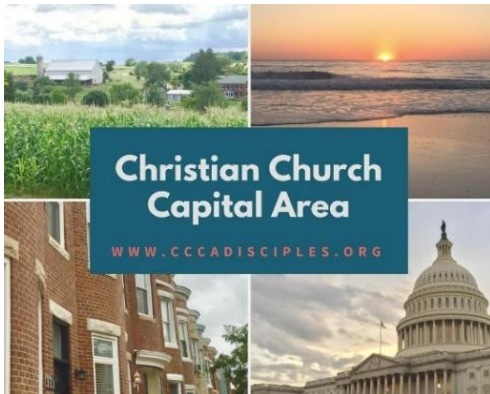
## October Meetings

St. Paul's Breakfast – October 1 @ 8:30 AM

Program Council – October 4 @ 7:00 PM

Board Meeting – October 11 @ 7:00 PM

Budget Committee – October 18 @ 7:00 PM



## 2023 Capital Area Prayer Calendar for This Month

Ephesians 6:18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people. You are invited to participate in the Capital Area Prayer Calendar by offering a prayer each day for the listed congregation, institution, or event during the week listed. Please pray for their pastor/executive director, lay leaders, and the community(ies) they serve. Pray also for the missionaries serving the world through our Global Ministries.

For weekly prayers, go online to: [http://www.globalministries.org/weekly\\_prayers](http://www.globalministries.org/weekly_prayers) [Note: The Capital Area has a special relationship with two missionary sites: China and Colombia] \* Indicates a discrepancy b/w what is listed on the Global Ministries website and their printed calendar.

- 1 Bethany Beach Christian Church, Bethany Beach, Delaware - [www.bethanybeachdisciples.org](http://www.bethanybeachdisciples.org) Anne Gregory, Thailand
- 8 Bethany Christian Church, Fort Washington, Maryland - <http://www.bethanychristianmd.org/> Cory Driver, Egypt
- 15 Christian Temple, Catonsville, Maryland - [www.christiantemple.org](http://www.christiantemple.org) Lydia Yang, Korea
- 22 The College of Regional Ministers and the other 31 Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada Bryan Parrish, Democratic Republic of Congo ‘
- 29 The Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses of the Disciples of Christ, especially the University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA and Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago, IL

